

Consultation on the proposal for a Resourced Provision for pupils with Autism (AS) at Denmead Junior School, starting in academic year 2027/28

Denmead Junior School and Hampshire County Council would like to hear your views on the proposal to create a 12 place Resourced Provision for pupils with autism at Denmead Junior School opening in phases in the academic year 2027/28.

Autism is a lifelong condition that affects how people learn, communicate, and interact with others. The school already supports a number of children with autism and having this provision will enhance the in-house support available across the school. It has been identified that there are an increasing number of children in the local area who are being diagnosed with autism, and we are therefore working towards expanding our offer of support to these children to attend local schools.

Secondary specialist provisions for pupils with autism are already established at Horndean, Cowplain and Crookhorn Schools so this will help establish a pathway.

This informal consultation will run from 8 June – 6 July.

Why do you need to develop a Resourced Provision for pupils with autism at the school?

Hampshire County Council is committed to developing and maintaining provision, where possible, to meet demand. Currently the need to provide school places for pupils with autism in this area of the County is a priority. Hampshire County Council and senior leadership at Denmead Junior School are keen to provide this additional provision for pupils and feel this in-house provision will have a benefit for many pupils at the school.

Why do you need to enlarge the school?

Hampshire County Council is committed to expanding successful provision where possible to meet demand. There is an increased and growing need to provide specialist support for pupils with autism. This proposal will provide much needed specialist educational accommodation to meet current and future demand. The proposal will add a total of up to 12 to the current number on roll at the school.

The school are already meeting the needs of pupils with special educational needs and have the site available and leadership expertise to expand this specialist provision to encompass catering for pupils with autism in a safe and secure environment.

What building works will be taking place?

Additional classroom space is required as a base for the Resourced Provision. The school proposes to utilise existing surplus accommodation to become the base for the Resourced Provision - minor adjustments, safeguarding measures, IT and furniture will be required alongside a secure outside play space. Consideration will also be made to staff parking and pupil drop off/pick up and improvements made if required. SEN High Needs Provision capital is available to fund these costs.

When will the building works start and how will you ensure the health and safety of pupils attending the school whilst the works are taking place?

It is planned that the building works, to create the facilities at the Denmead Junior School site, will be complete for academic year 2027/28.

Health and safety of children, staff and visitors is paramount. The school would ensure a detailed health and safety plan is drawn up in advance of any works.

What will be the impact on pupils at Denmead Junior School?

The pupils who will attend the Resourced Provision will attend mainstream classes as appropriate to suit their needs and also spend time in the Resourced Provision areas for individual and/or small group support.

The new provision will give the opportunity for Denmead Junior School to further enhance their inclusion and wellbeing offer to all pupils as this should positively impact pupils across the school and not just those placed in the Resourced Provision. The school will use the funding, facilities and resources that the Resourced Provision has to benefit both the Resourced Provision pupils and pupils already at the school. Also, the school can access relevant continuous professional development for staff across the school as well as knowledge being shared by staff within the Resourced Provision.

Will the school receive additional funding due to the numbers increasing?

Yes, Denmead Junior School will receive additional revenue funding related to the Resourced Provision and also additional funding based on the increase in number of pupils on their roll. This will provide the additional staffing and resources required.

What happens after this consultation?

This consultation will run from 8 June to 6 July. Officers will then consider the consultation responses, received in writing, before deciding whether the proposal should continue to the formal publication stage.

If approved, a statutory Public Notice will be published, setting out the Local Authorities intent to increase the capacity of the school and introduce the new Resourced Provision. It is anticipated that this will be published in autumn 2026. After the date of publication, there will be a four-week period in which any representations can be made.

After the conclusion of this period, the Local Authority will decide whether to proceed with the proposal. Any final approval will be made in late autumn 2026/Spring 2027.

Will I have the opportunity to discuss the proposal and ask questions?

A drop-in session where you will be able to discuss the proposal will take place on **11 June 2026 between 3:30pm and 6pm at Denmead Junior School (PO7 6PH).**

If you are unable to email or visit the above website and wish to make a comment, then please email sendcommissioning@hants.gov.uk or write to:

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All comments must be received by 6 July 2026.